

the two reports by Mr. Little will promote a better understanding of the medical practice and distribution problems awaiting solution.

CALIFORNIA PHYSICIANS' SERVICE

C.M.A. House of Delegates as Board of Administrative Members of C.P.S.—In CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE for June, 1944, on page 294, note was made in the minutes of the C.M.A. House of Delegates concerning a recess during which members of the House again convened, but this time as the Board of Administrative Members of California Physicians' Service. The minutes of the two C.P.S. meetings appeared on pages 329-333, and further comment was given place on page 345. The medical service organization, California Physicians' Service, was brought into being by the California Medical Association. With the C.M.A. House of Delegates constituting its group of Administrative Members, it is now, more than ever, the child of the State Medical Association. Therefore, the perusal of those minutes should take on additional interest. The fact that California's statewide plan of medical service for certain low income groups is at last on a sound foundation, with a bright outlook for the future, is heartening to those C.M.A. members who, with good wishes for its success, have kept in touch with its development.

Skeptics should keep in mind that the president of the Board of Trustees of California Physicians' Service is Dr. Ray Lyman Wilbur of Stanford, who has never been in the habit of permitting his name to be used in promotion of plans that did not have fundamental merit and legitimate objectives. That he was willing to accept the office of president when C.P.S. was organized, and remain with it as it was striving to work out its career, is a tribute both to his good judgment and loyal spirit of cooperation.

There may be some physicians who still look somewhat askance at C.P.S. In justice to themselves and their State Association's medical service organization,—C.P.S.—they should take the time to scan the references given above, and also the report in the current issue, which appears on page 119.

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C.P.S. Is No Longer in the Red.—In this last report, it is stated that California Physicians' Service, as a going concern, in the last fiscal year, did a business totaling \$1,340,315.00, which all fair-minded persons must concede is a respectable sum. Accretions of new beneficiary members (patients) are now proceeding at a rate of something like 8,000 new members each month. If members of the profession will lend all possible aid, that figure can be materially increased.

With a unit value of \$2.25 in operation, and new bookkeeping arrangements, whereby in the future it will be possible to pay physicians promptly for services rendered,—in short, almost as soon as statements are properly submitted,—

and payments made according to a schedule that compares most favorably with fees otherwise received from persons in the low income groups to whom the professional services are rendered, and with absolutely no loss through bad or nonpaying accounts, there is today little basis for legitimate criticism of this California Medical Association plan to provide adequate medical service for the large group of low income citizens, for whom, particularly, C.P.S. was brought into existence.

It is not contended that mistakes in policy and administration have not been made by C.P.S. during the last five years, but the errors have not all been one-sided. We should not forget that our State Association, through its House of Delegates,—after warm discussion running over several years,—saw fit to promote a statewide medical service organization. California Physicians' Service was the first statewide and comprehensive health coverage plan to be organized under the sponsorship and control of a constituent state medical society. Because the original set-up was too idealistic—there being little real actuarial background upon which to base a foundation for the organization—it is not to be wondered at that, in the light of later and greater experience, some errors should have been made. However, by the hard way, through the trial and error method, California Physicians' Service has gradually found itself, and today it is a going concern, "not in, but *outside* the red." The number of beneficiary members (patients) is steadily increasing, and there is also a substantial decrease in costs of operation.

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C.M.A.'s Plan of Medical Service Is Under Close Observation.—The California Medical Association has the distinction of having promoted the largest statewide medical service plan in the United States, and the experiment is being carefully watched by keen observers—both governmental and nongovernmental,—from one end of the United States to the other.

It is agreed that in some portions of our State there has been legitimate basis for criticisms that have been made concerning California Physicians' Service. However, it is the belief of the constituted authorities of the California Medical Association—the members of the C.M.A. Council—that from now on, the record of C.P.S. will be increasingly favorable. It is also the hope of all who have borne special responsibilities in relation to C.P.S., that in those areas where unhappiness and disaffection have existed in the past, members of the California Medical Association will be willing to again take stock of the situation, as it exists today, and insofar as individual and collective support is possible, give the same to the further and future promotion of California Physicians' Service.

If, from now on,—forgetting the mistakes of days gone by,—all can work together, it should be possible for the medical profession of California to point the way and indicate the paths whereby adequate medical service may be made avail-

able to citizens of low income groups, and that, without governmental intervention, control and regimentation.

Certainly, such a happy consummation should appeal to every member of the California Medical Association, and all should work for so laudable an objective.

NEXT YEAR'S ANNUAL SESSION

The Meeting Dates for 1945 Are May 6-7.—In May last, the House of Delegates approved the recommendation of the Council that next year's Annual Session shall be held on Sunday-Monday, May 6-7, 1945, in Los Angeles. That will mark the third successive year in which the Los Angeles County Medical Association will have been the nominal host of the California Medical Association.

Reasons for the selection are simple: the Association has thirteen Scientific Sections, a House of Delegates, a Council, and a Woman's Auxiliary; and for each of these separate activities, a meeting room is needed. The Hotel Del Monte, where the C.M.A. has met year after year, is now a Navy institution; San Francisco, at present a major port of embarkation, finds its hotels constantly filled to overflowing; consequently, the Hotel Biltmore in Los Angeles, with its battery of conference rooms, is the only hostelry in which even approximate meeting needs can be provided. Therefore, during the Duration, it may be assumed that we will continue to meet in Los Angeles, provided the Hotel Biltmore is available.

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Advice to Prospective Essayists.—The above comments having been made, it is now in order to remind members of the California Medical Association who are in position to cooperate, to write to the proper Section Secretary (or to the Association Secretary, who is chairman of the Committee on Scientific Work) concerning possible papers to be presented at Section or General Meetings. Members who are interested in special topics are also invited to send in suggestions. The C.M.A. Committee and Section Officers will be happy to receive such. No scientific exhibits are contemplated. Following the procedure in operation during the last two Annual Sessions, next year's—the C.M.A.'s Seventy-fourth—will be limited to two-day, streamlined meetings. The two days thus designated,—Sunday and Monday,—make for greater ease in attendance, since appointments and other professional work can be better set aside at that period of the week.

Members should keep the next Annual Session in mind, and if possible, make plans to be present. During these strenuous days, the interchange of opinion on old and new problems is as much needed as ever. With the large membership in the Los Angeles County Medical Association, in excess of two thousand, there exists a substantial nucleus for a successful session. Make plans to be among those who will be present.

EDITORIAL COMMENT†

POTENTIATED INFLUENZA VACCINE

Ten years ago Burky¹ found that while autogenous lens and muscle proteins are apparently nonantigenic for rabbits, both become effective antigens when combined with staphylococcus filtrate. Using the combined antigens rabbits can be readily sensitized to their own crystalline lens and skeletal muscles. Such rabbits produce sufficiently high titer anti-lens or anti-muscle precipitins to cause degenerative lesions in its own homologous tissues.

Since publication of these results the suggested possibility of enhancing the immunizing power of numerous relatively unsuccessful vaccines by the addition of adjuvants has been the subject of numerous investigations. Ramon² found that the addition of lanolin to diphtheria toxin enhances antitoxin production. Freund³ noted that the addition of paraffin oil enhances the antigenic properties of heat-killed tubercle bacilli. Landsteiner⁴ was able to sensitize animals to certain relatively simple chemical compounds by means of simultaneous intraperitoneal injection of these compounds and heat-killed tubercle bacilli suspended in paraffin oil.

Combining these suggestive leads Freund⁵ of the Department of Health, New York City, attempted to maximize the antigenicity of horse serum. The horse serum was added to an equal volume of "aquaphor," a lanolin-like substance which possesses a much greater water-absorbing capacity than lanolin. There was then added to the mixture an equal volume of paraffin oil containing 2 mg. per c.c. of vacuum dried, heat-killed tubercle bacilli. The resulting emulsion was injected in 0.5 c.c. doses intramuscularly into full-grown guinea pigs. Each dose contained 0.125 c.c. horse serum, 0.125 c.c. of the lanolin-like substance, 0.25 c.c. paraffin oil and 0.5 mg. heat-killed tubercle bacilli. Control animals were injected with the same dose of horse serum diluted with saline solution.

The animals were tested for sensitivity by intracutaneous injections of graded dilutions of horse serum at various intervals during the next 12 months. Necrosis occurred frequently at the site of the injection of 10 per cent horse serum in groups sensitized with horse serum plus adjuvants, but was never noted in control groups sensitized with horse serum alone. The contrast was particularly striking in animals tested one year after sensitization. Tested with 1:10 dilution of horse serum a typical late reaction in the adjuvant groups was an area of redness 35 mm. in diameter, with a 3 mm. swelling. The reactions were wholly negative in the control groups.

† This department of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE presents editorial comments by contributing members on items of medical progress, science and practice, and on topics from recent medical books or journals. An invitation is extended to all members of the California Medical Association to submit brief editorial discussions suitable for publication in this department. No presentation should be over five hundred words in length.